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Action

## MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET/NODIS~~

March 1, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DR. KISSINGER

FROM:

WINSTON LORD *W*

SUBJECT:

Letter from Ray Aubrac

Aubrac has sent you a letter, attached at Tab D, with an inelegant translation at Tab C.

In his note, besides praising the perceptiveness of the Joseph Kraft article in Harpers, he relates a disagreeable incident in Rome recently when he got a visa to visit the U.S. on routine business. He was subjected to a tough interview and was given a visa strictly for the duration of his stay in the United States. He found this unprecedented and feels it portends U.S. suspicion of him and possible restrictions on his activities. <sup>V25X1</sup> he does not wish to trouble you, he does welcome any advice you might give him.

25X1 I have already sent him an interim acknowledgement, explaining that delay in transmission and preoccupation with the annual review have caused some delay in getting his message to you. I said you would give his letter early attention without committing you to any action.

I believe the best way to proceed is for you to query Ambassador Martin  and ask him to check into this episode with the utmost discretion. At Tab B for your approval is a cable doing that. At Tab A for your approval is a draft letter to Aubrac saying that you are looking into this matter and will be back in touch with him as soon as you have information on it -- I will put this message into a letter from me to Aubrac, per our usual procedure.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the cable at Tab B and the letter at Tab A.

*OK as edited*

*OK*

DOS, NSS, USAID reviews completed.

~~SECRET/NODIS~~

SECRET/NODIS/EYES ONLY

25X1

March 2, 1971

TO: AMBASSADOR GRAHAM MARTIN, ROME ITALY

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER <sup>151</sup>

I have learned that Raymond Aubrac, a member of the FAO stationed in Rome, whom we used some years ago on highly sensitive matters, encountered some difficulties in getting a routine visa to visit the U. S. recently. He apparently was subjected to an unprecedented and tough interview at the Embassy and was then given a visa whose duration was the bare minimum for his discussions here with AID and UN officials on rice development in West Africa. It has been alleged that his treatment was unwarranted and could portend both U. S. suspicion and restrictions on his activities.

I would appreciate it if you could look into this incident with the utmost discretion and let me know (1) the facts and (2) any larger significance behind the facts.

Warm regards.

SECRET NODIS/EYES ONLY

HAK:WL:ms:3/2/71

3600 Rittenhouse St., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20015

March 2, 1971

Dear Mr. Aubrac:

Our mutual friend asks that I pass the following message to you:

Dear Raymond,

Thank you for your recent letter bringing to my attention your unfortunate experience in getting a visa. Your account distressed me. I am checking into this episode with the utmost discretion and will find out what significance, if any, lies behind the troubles you had.

You will not be surprised to hear that I thought the Kraft article had both good and bad points, with the less flattering aspects being grossly inaccurate, the favorable points being deeply perceptive.

The next time you are in Washington I count on your taxi bringing you to, not near, the White House. I value our conversations greatly; their worth does not depend on the amount of "news" you have.

I will be back in touch with you shortly, as soon as I have information on the Rome incident.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Winston Lord

Mr. Raymond Aubrac  
160 Via Alessandria  
Rome, Italy

WL:ms:3/2/71

Rough Translation of Aubrac Letter, 8 February 1971

I have returned from a week's trip to the United States, where I discussed, with AID at the State Department and with the UNDP at the United Nations, plans for a development project for rice production in West Africa. The subject is so far removed from your level of world politics, and I had so little to tell you -- except my disappointments -- on the problems which have been the subject of our conversations in past years, that I decided not to try to see you, although I was tempted when the taxi passed near the White House.

It is Joseph Kraft's article in Harper's which made me write to you. The author is very intelligent, and probably one of your friends. If he is not one of your friends, then the article is even more perceptive. His piece showed me how, what I certainly knew already, the personality of Henry Kissinger stamps itself in the very forefront of American foreign policy. I don't have enough talent nor craft to combine personal feeling and the political incisiveness to make such a contribution as this portrait, which recalls the precision of Ingres and the contrasts of Rembrandt. Moreover, the portrait of the man must include a definition of the results of his actions, the impact that he makes, and especially, the motives which move him, and the model must be self-expressive. He has already done that, a little, and he will do it further, I am convinced.

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As an anecdote, and for your information, I would like only to bring to your attention in case you would be concerned, a small incident which occurred during my recent trip to the U. S. I had asked for a visa through the FAO. It is always a routine business, since the meetings were with your AID colleagues and the international civil servants at the U. S. mission always received the necessary visa. This time this was not the case. I was called, an exceptional and perhaps unprecedented fact, to your Rome Embassy and politely subjected, by a pleasant young lady, to what was in fact a tough interrogation. I need not tell you that I avoided responding with all possible courtesy. The visa was given to me strictly for the precise length of my stay, taking account of the flight schedules and the hours on the airplane.

This little incident has been very disagreeable for me. An important member of my Organization suggested the following explanation: "It might well be that you are known to be friendly to Henry Kissinger."

We are at a time where your government is cutting back its relations with UN organizations. As you know, I perform a modest role, and my chances for promotion are very limited. But I believe in the value of this international work and I scrupulously respect the pledge of independence that one makes upon entering it. If one

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considers me dangerous for the security of the United States, I fear that one will limit still further my activities, already circumscribed since 1967.

Do not let this trouble you, you have certainly other things to do. But if you do have advice to give me, I would welcome it.

Be of good heart, Henry. My best to you.

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